

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/928,373

Examiner

Ali Bayat

Applicant(s)

MISHIMA, NOBUHIRO

Art Unit

2624

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to supplemental amendment filed on 4/18/06.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-5,7,15-18 and 21-26 (renumbered as 1-16).
3. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
- (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
- 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____

JINGGEWU
PRIMARY EXAMINER

Allowable Subject Matter

1. Claims 1-5,7,15-18 and 21-26 (renumbered as 1-16) are allowed.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: the prior art of Darel et al. (U.S. 6,024,018) provides for a data converting unit for converting color data that is contained in image data (col.3 lines 40-45, see RGB), into converted color data (col. 3 lines 40-45, see Lab color space) that corresponds to a difference from a reference color (col. 3 lines 40-45, see calculating the color difference ΔE between the test and reference ROIs); Darel does not provide expressly for a coding unit for performing entropy coding on converted image data in which the color data has been converted by the data converting unit . The prior art of Katayama et al. (U.S. 5,909,505) provides for a coding unit for performing entropy coding on converted image data in which the color data has been converted by the data-converting unit (Fig.11A element 218, col.11 lines 60-65). The prior arts of Darel et al. and Katayama et al. failed to teach or suggest for **the coding unit (a) generates bit planes for the converted color data that has been converted by the data converting unit, by dividing bits of pixels showing the converted color data in such a manner that each bit plane is composed of values of bits at a different bit position, and (b) performs the entropy coding on the converted color data in units of the generated bit planes.** As cited in claim 1. Further the prior arts of Darel et al. and Katayama et al. failed to teach or suggest for **the coding unit (a) generates a plane for the converted color data that has been converted by the data converting unit, by arranging values of bits of pixels showing the converted color data on a two-dimensional plane, and**

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(b) performs the entropy coding on the converted color data in a form of the generated plane. As cited in claim 7. The reasons for allowance for the claims 15-16 was given in prior office action with mailing date on 6/01/05.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Contact Information

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Ali Bayat whose telephone number is 571-272-7444. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 9:00 AM-5:00 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Jingge Wu can be reached on 571-272-7429. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

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4/26/06

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